

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraphs (section) beginning on page 4, at line 9 as shown below:

The invention is a load transfer device comprising:

first and second spaced-apart rotary members sharing a common axis of rotation, each having a hub portion and at least one recess formed in its periphery;

a slipper member extending between the rotary members and defining therewith a space adapted to receive an elongate support element along which the device is adapted to travel, in use;

an attachment means for attaching a load to the device, and

an access means to that enables said elongate element to be introduced into or removed from said space so as to allow the device to be attached to or detached from the elongate element;

characterised in that said access means comprises at least one notch provided in the hub portion of each rotary member and in that said attachment means comprises a moveable link assembly operable between:

(a) a blocking position in which it prevents access to the notches by said elongate support element without movement of the rotary members away from each other along the common axis, and

(b) a release position in which it allows access to the notches by said elongate support element,

whereby said slipper member is enabled to pass over the elongate support element to cover or expose said space according to whether the device is being attached to or released from the elongate support element.

Please amend the paragraphs (section) beginning on page 4, at line 31 as shown below:

The arrangement of the device is such that the rotary members are rotatably mounted in relation to the slipper member. The recesses in the peripheries of the rotary members are adapted to traverse, without user intervention, [[the]] an intermediate support ~~means~~ used to support the elongate element relative to a fixed structure. This traversing operation occurs by rotation of the rotary members relative to the slipper member such that elements of the intermediate support means are successively received, guided and passed by the recesses automatically;

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Most advantageously, because the moveable link forms part of the attachment ~~means~~, it is incapable of being deployed to its release position whenever a load is attached to the attachment ~~means~~. This ensures fail-safe operation of the device.

The moveable link may take a variety of forms and, in addition to the fail-safe arrangement described above, it may also be biased to its blocking position by ~~biasing means~~ a resilient bias such as a spring or the like. In one especially preferred form, the moveable link is formed with finger grip features to facilitate its manipulation by the user between its blocking position and its release position.

Please amend the paragraphs (section) beginning on page 6, at line 15 as shown below:

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The invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the drawings, in which:

- Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the present invention;
- Figure 2 is a perspective view of a pair of rotary members forming an essential part of the invention depicted in Figure 1, shown in spaced-apart relationship;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a part of the invention depicted in Figure 1 in the blocking or closed condition, with one of the rotary members omitted for clarity;

Figure 4 is a perspective view similar to the arrangement shown in Figure 3, but with the device in its open or release condition;

Figure 5 is a perspective view corresponding to Figure 3, showing the moveable link of the attachment ~~means~~ in the blocking or closed condition;

Figure 6 is a perspective view corresponding to Figure 4, showing the moveable link of the attachment ~~means~~ in the open or release condition;

Figure 7 is a similar view to Figure 5, but with a second portion of the attachment fitting superimposed over the blocking or closing mechanism of the device;
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Figure 8 is a similar view to Figure 5, showing a first alternative arrangement of moveable link in the blocking or closed condition;

Figure 9 is a similar view to Figure 6, showing the first alternative arrangement of moveable link in the open or release condition;

Figure 10 is a similar view to Figure 7, with a second portion of the attachment fitting superimposed over the first alternative arrangement of moveable link;

Figure 11 is a similar view to Figure 8, showing a second alternative arrangement of moveable link in the blocking or closed condition;

Figure 12 is a similar view to Figure 9, showing the second alternative arrangement of moveable link in the open or release condition, and

Figure 13 is a similar view to Figure 10, with a second portion of the attachment fitting superimposed over the second alternative arrangement of moveable link.

Please amend the paragraphs (section) beginning on page 9, at line 8 as shown below:

Referring now to Figure 3, this shows a first embodiment of the load transfer device according to the present invention with the starwheel 101 omitted for clarity. Starwheel 102 is rotatably mounted on axle 200, on which is also mounted attachment means 300. An [[A]]attachment or attachment means 300 comprises a first attachment member 301 depending from the axle 200, said first attachment member having a connecting eye 305 adapted to receive a karabiner or similar fastening, in use, for enabling attachment of a personnel safety harness to the device by means of a lanyard. First attachment member also has a stub axle 306 positioned immediately below axle 200 on which the starwheel 102 is rotatably mounted, and a pivot pin 321 positioned above the connecting eye 305. The purposes of the stub axle 306 and the pivot pin 321 will be explained in more detail below.

Attachment means 300 further comprises a moveable link assembly comprising a moveable link 310 having an oblong slot 311 and a swing link 320 having a connecting eye 325 arranged to correspond in shape and size to the connecting eye 305 of the first attachment member 301. The oblong slot 311 of the moveable link 310 is dimensioned to accommodate both the axle 200 on which the starwheel 102 is mounted and the stub axle 306 of the first attachment member, with an additional clearance, the purpose of which will become apparent from the description which follows. The swing link 320 has a small through-hole dimensioned to receive the pivot pin 321 of the first attachment member 301 and is able to pivot thereon between a first position in which the connecting eye 325 of the swing link 320 is in alignment with the connecting eye 305 of the first attachment member 301, and a second position (best seen with reference to Figure 4) in which the connecting eye 325 of the swing link 320 is out of register with the connecting eye 305 of the first attachment member 301. In this second

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position, part of the body of the swing link 320 functions as an obstructor that obstructs the connecting eye 305 of the first attachment member 301, thereby preventing attachment of a karabiner to the load transfer device.

Please amend the paragraph (section) beginning on page 15, at line 27 as shown below:

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Moveable link 340 has an oblong slot 341 in which the axle 200 is received and a "U"-shaped slot 342 in which is received the stub axle 306 of the first attachment member 301, together with resilient means or bias for biasing the moveable link 340 to its blocking or closed condition. In the illustrated embodiment, the resilient means is a compression spring 349 positioned between the upper curved surface of the stub axle 306 and the underside 343 of the upper rim of the "U"-shaped slot 342. The lower portion of the moveable link 330 comprises a pair of legs 344, 345 having an inverted semicircular notch 336 therebetween.